

Summary of Draft Legislation

Duty Survivor Benefits

Background:

Several death benefits are paid to survivors of members of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Plan 2 whose death results from injuries sustained in the course of employment. These benefits include a survivor benefit paid to the spouse or other eligible survivor. The amount of this survivor benefit is the greater of: 1) the member's accumulated contributions; or 2) the member's earned retirement benefit, actuarially reduced based on the difference in age between the member and their beneficiary and further actuarially reduced based on the difference between the member's age at death from the plan's normal retirement age (53).

Last session, the legislature unanimously passed HB 1519, which provides that the survivor benefit paid from a member's earned retirement benefit to survivors of PERS, SERS, and TRS members killed in the course of employment, is not subject to an early retirement actuarial reduction. The Select Committee on Pension Policy is considering an identical bill for the Washington State Patrol Retirement System Plan 2 for the 2004 session.

Legislation:

The bill eliminates the "early retirement" actuarial reduction from the survivor benefit paid from a LEOFF Plan 2 member's earned retirement benefit if the member is killed in the course of employment. The bill is identical to the provisions of HB 1519 from the 2003 legislative session.

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